(c) and (d) The second Bench of the National Commission has been constituted which has started functioning with effect from 24th September, 2003 to dispose off the consumer cases rapidly.

Procurement of paddy in Uttar Pradesh

†1738. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has passed any order on the 29th August, 2003 regarding procurement of paddy in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the State Government is implementing the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in procurement of paddy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Th Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order, dated 29.8.2003 has considered the order passed by the High Court at Lucknow on a writ petition seeking certain reliefs in respect of paddy procurement policy of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and after consideration set aside the orders of the High Court and referred the matter to the High Court for fresh consideration. The matter is presently sub-judice in the High Court. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has indicated that all previous orders issued by the High Court in the matter have been scrupulously implemented and the State Government has been procuring paddy as per approved specifications at MSP through its agencies.

Assistance to cane-growers

1739. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approved a Rs. 678.06 crore one time assistance package for sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, indicating nature and extent of assistance given to cane-growers and its *modus operandi;* and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.